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(Rev. 5/99)

# AN ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVE NETWORK ELEMENTS AVAILABLE TO CLECS

Prepared by Network Engineering Consultants, Inc. Under the Direction of Francis J. Murphy, President May 26, 1999

# I. Executive Summary

This paper presents an analysis of the alternative sources of network elements available to the increasing number of Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) providing telecommunications services. Since 1996, the number of CLECs has grown by 400%, from 200 to 1000.¹ Today, in most major markets in the United States, as well as in many smaller markets, CLECs are providing telecommunications services with little or no reliance on the network functionality of the Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs). CLECs are providing their own switching, transport facilities and local loops. In addition, they are securing Signaling System 7 (SS7), Operations Support System (OSS), and Operator Services and Directory Assistance functionality from non-ILEC sources. In areas where they do not provide their own facilities, they are opting to purchase network elements from wholesale providers rather than ILECs. The information presented in this report demonstrates that CLECs have been and will continue to be able to successfully expand their networks and corresponding customer bases without relying on ILEC-provided network elements.

# II. Analysis of Switching Alternatives Available to CLECs

# A. CLECs Are Providing Their Own Switching Functionality

Today, in most major markets in the United States, there are many CLECs providing their own switching functionality, rather than purchasing it on an unbundled basis from an ILEC. CLECs are opting to build their own switching networks because it affords them more control, more flexibility, and better planning capability. Self-provisioning also allows CLECs to choose between various technologies and to be knowledgeable at all times about the available capacity of their facilities. The matrices below detail a sample of CLECs that are providing their own switching functionality, the technology and vendors they are using, and the ranking Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) where their switches are located.<sup>2</sup> These matrices contain only a sample of the companies that are opting to provide their own facilities, but even this small sample demonstrates that all types of CLECs are providing their own switching capabilities throughout the country -- in both large and small markets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>See Attachment A.(Chart presented by Jeff Phillips, Consultant, TeleChoice, Inc. at a 3Coms's Starting Ahead, Staying Ahead Seminar in Boston, Mass. (February 4,1999)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>For purposes of this analysis, the ranking MSA are those identified by the United States Bureau of Census. See Attachment B (U.S. Bureau of Census, "State and Metropolitan Area Data Book 1997-1998, (5<sup>th</sup> Edition) A Statistical Abstract Supplement,") (April 1998)). There are a total of 254 MSAs, with No. 1 being the largest.

# 1. Traditional CLECs Are Providing Their Own Switching Functionality

Traditional CLECs are providing their own switching functionality in markets throughout the United States. For purposes of this paper, traditional CLECs are defined as telecommunications service providers that provide local service to end users over a circuit-switched network in a manner similar to the way ILECs provide service. These CLECs are taking advantage of the numerous switching options available from switch vendors specifically catering to the CLEC market. Various types and sizes of switches with a broad range of functions, feature options, and prices are available from an ever-increasing number of switch manufacturers. As Table 1 below demonstrates, traditional CLECs are providing their own switching capability in most major MSAs, as well as in many smaller MSAs.

TABLE 1: SELECTED TRADITIONAL CLECS PROVIDING THEIR OWN SWITCH FACILITIES			
CLEC	TECHNOLOGY/ VENDOR	MSA RANK OF SWITCH LOCATIONS ( )= # of switches	
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Telecom Group	Siemens EWSD	3	
Allegiance Telecom	Lucent 5ESS AnyMedia, Nortel DMS 500	1 (3 switches), 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9(2), 11	
AT&T	Lucent 5ESS, Nortel DMS100	1 (11), 2 (3), 3 (6), 4 (6), 5 (2), 6 (5), 7(2), 8(2), 9 (2), 10, 11 (3), 12, 13 (2), 14,15 (2), 16 (2), 17, 18(2), 20(2), 21, 22, 23, 24 (2), 26, 28 (2), 29, 32, 35 (3), 37, 39, 45, 48, 51, 53, 61, 62, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 75, 79, 88, 93, 95, 137	
Bay Ring Communications	Class 5 Digital Switch	7	
Birch Telecom	Lucent 5ESS	18	
Business Telecom, Inc.	Lucent 5ESS 2000	11, 30, 37 (2), 44, 52, 79	

TABLE 1: SELECTED TRADITIONAL CLECS PROVIDING THEIR OWN SWITCH FACILITIES			
CapRock Communications	DMS-10, DMS 500	10,127	
Electric Lightwave, Inc.	Nortel DMS500, Ascend ATM, B-STDX 9000	13, 15, 23, 35, 95, 103	
e-Spire	Lucent 5ESS 2000, Newbridge Main Street, Xpress ATM,	4 (2), 11, 12, 21, 24 (2), 28, 33, 34, 48 (2), 52, 53, 57, 62, 80	
FirstWorld	Lucent 5ESS, Nortel DMS 500	2 (2), 5	
Florida Digital	Nortel DMS500	12	
Focal Communications	Nortel DMS 500, AccessNode Express	1 (3), 2, 3 (2), 4, 5, 6 (2), 7, 8	
Frontier Communications	Nortel DMS 500,	1 (2), 2, 3, 4 (2), 7 (2), 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 26	
GCI of Alaska (General Communications)	Nortel DMS100, 105, Nortel Remote Sw. Ctr.	141 (3)	
GST Telecommunications	Nortel DMS500, AccessNode Express	2 (4), 5 (2), 9, 10, 13,15, 22,55 (4), 56, 62, 64, 95, 103	
Hyperion Communications	Lucent 5ESS	1, 6, 36, 38, 48, 65, 66, 71, 72, 75, 93, 107, 168, 198, 217	
ICG Telecom	Lucent 5ESS	5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 20 (2), 32, 38, 42, 48, 53, 101	
Intermedia Communications, Inc.	Nortel DMS100	1, 2, 3, 4 (3), 6, 7, 9, 11 (2), 12, 14, 16, 18, 21 (2), 23 (2), 29 (2), 30 (2), 33, 38, 43 (3), 44, 47, 53	
ITC DeltaCom	Nortel DMS500, Ascend ATM	10 Southern states with 80 POPs.	

TABLE 1: SELECTED TRADITIONAL CLECS PROVIDING THEIR OWN SWITCH FACILITIES		
KMC Telecom Corp.	Lucent 5ESS Anymedia	8, 16, 27, 37, 71, 74, 81, 83, 85, 98, 101, 116, 131, 135, 149, 155, 183
Justice Technology	DC0	2
McLeodUSA	Nortel DMS500	29, 109, 171 and one switch in Quincy, IL
MCI WorldCom	various Nortel DMSs, Siemens EWSDs, Lucent 5ESSs.	1 (12), 2 (4), 3 (5), 4 (7), 5 (3), 6 (4), 7 (7), 8(3), 9 (3), 10, 11 (4), 12 (2), 13 (2), 14 (2), 15, 16 (3), 17, 18, 19 (2), 20, 21 (2), 23 (3), 26, 28 (2), 29, 30 (2), 35, 38, 39, 40, 43, 45, 46 (3), 47, 51, 57, 58, 62, 68, 70, 72, 73, 89, 93, 124, 125, 140
MGC Communications	Nortel DMS500	2 (2), 11, 12, 17 (2), 34, 47
New South Communications	Lucent 5ESS AnyMedia	33, 38, 52, 87
Pac-West Telecom	DEX-600E	73
PaeTec	Lucent 5ESS-2000	6, 7, 12, 54, 59
US LEC	Lucent 5ESS AnyMedia	11, 12, 27, 32, 37, 41, 44, 63, 154 (2)
TelePacific	Lucent	2
See Appendix A for table sources.		

CLECs are also providing their own switching facilities in smaller communities throughout the country, not just in the higher ranked MSAs. The table below lists several CLECs that have placed switches in smaller MSAs whose populations are very small compared to the higher ranked MSAs.

TABLE 2: SELECTED CLECs PROVIDING SWITCHES IN SMALL MSAs			
CLEC	SWITCH LOCATION	MSA RANK OF SWITCH LOCATIONS	POPULATION OF MSA
AT&T	Charleston, WV	137	253,850
GCI of Alaska (General Communications)	Anchorage, AK	141 (3 switches)	251,047
Hyperion Communications	State College, PA Charlottesville, VA South Burlington, VT	217 198 168	132,993 146,617 191,088
KMC Telecom Corp.	Tallahassee, FL Topeka, KS Fayetteville, NC Longview, TX Roanoke, VA	135 183 131 155 149	260,611 164,932 284,047 208,250 228,534
McLeodUSA	Cedar Rapids, IA Quincy, IL	171 not in an MSA	181,704 NA
MCI WorldCom	Portland, ME	140	251,438
See Appendix A for table sources.			

# 2. Cable TV Providers Are Providing Their Own Switching Functionality

Like the traditional CLECs, cable TV (CATV) providers are opting to provide their own switching functionality. In addition to CATV, CATV networks are currently being used to provide both local telephone and Internet services. Unidirectional CATV networks -- which include existing coaxial cable wiring into many homes in America -- are being updated with fiber feeder and electronics that make them two-way systems.<sup>3</sup> Once updated, the CATV network provides a high-bandwidth alternative to the ILEC network.

In addition, to complete their network build-outs, CATV companies are purchasing their own switching functionality. Companies like Cablevision, Cox Communications, RCN, MediaOne, and Time Warner Cable have placed switching facilities in major cities across the United States and are offering their customers voice-grade telephony service. For

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>CableWeb Systems Website, http://www.cable-web.com.

instance, Cox Communications, Inc. currently offers residential telephone service in four markets and plans to expand into the remainder of its eight major markets in the next 18 months. These markets account for more than 80 percent of Cox's 3.4 million customers. Similarly, according to AT&T Chairman C. Michael Armstrong, AT&T's announced purchase of MediaOne "means that far more American consumers will have a choice in local phone service." AT&T estimates that with the recent MediaOne purchase, it will have access to over 60% of United States households. As additional mergers and partnerships are formed between CATV and telephony providers, the number of CATV companies purchasing their own switches can be expected to increase.

Table 3 below provides a sample of CATV companies that have deployed their own switches for purposes of providing voice telephony services.

TABLE 3: SELECTED CATV CLECS PROVIDING THEIR OWN SWITCH FACILITIES			
CLEC	TECHNOLOGY/ VENDOR	MSA RANK OF SWITCH LOCATIONS () = # switches	
Cablevision Systems (Lightpath)	Lucent 5ESS	1 (2), 14	
Cox Communications	Nortel DMS500	15, 17 (2), 27, 33, 39, 45, 51, 61	
MediaOne	Lucent 5ESS	7, 8, 11, 16, 44, 47, 50, 56	
RCN	Lucent 5ESS, Nortel DMS250	4, 7	
Time-Warner Telecom	Lucent 5ESS	1, 10, 17, 20, 23, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 37, 40, 41, 42, 43, 54, 55	
See Appendix A for table sources.			

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>"Telecommunications Competition is Flowing," by Jim Robbins, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cox Communications, Inc., Cox Communications Website, http://www.cox.com/Corporate/Competition

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>AT&T offers \$62 billion in cash, stock and assumed debt and preferred equity for MediaOne Group, (April 22, 1998), http://www.att.com/press/item/0,1193,439,00.html.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>AT&T Website, http://www.att.com/press/item/0,1193,439,00.html.

# 3. Data CLECs Are Using Emerging Technology Solutions In Place Of ILEC Switching

In addition to traditional CLECs and CATV providers, carriers calling themselves Data or Packet CLECs make up a significant percentage of today's telecommunications market. These companies -- such as Covad Communications Group, NorthPoint Communications, and Rhythms NetConnections -- focus on providing packet-switched, Internet Protocol (IP)-based data services to business customers, rather than local consumer voice service. The Data CLECs, however, are on the leading edge of an important development in the telecommunications industry -- the convergence of existing voice networks with the traditionally separate data/packet networks. This convergence is being driven by burgeoning data communication demands as well as by the constant pressure to reduce networking costs.

A key factor in this convergence is a packetized voice technology commonly known as Voice-over-IP (VoIP). In general terms, VoIP technology allows voice information to be sent in digital form by discrete data packets traversing shared virtual-circuits, rather than by the traditional circuit-committed protocols of the public switched telephone network (PSTN). A current advantage of VoIP is that it avoids the tolls charged by ordinary telephone service providers. To deploy VoIP, an enterprise positions a "VoIP device" (such as Cisco's AS5300 access server with the VoIP feature) at a gateway. The gateway receives packetized voice transmissions from users within the company and routes them to other parts of the company's intranet (local area or wide area network) or, using a T-1 or E-1 interface, sends them over the public switched telephone network. Another significant advantage of VoIP is a reduction in network costs: Because the voice traffic shares the digital pipes that enterprise customers are purchasing to carry their data traffic, voice circuit charges are eliminated.

As these technologies mature and standards for interconnection are established, the all-digital, packet networks will replace the current circuit-switched networks. At the forefront of this convergence, Data CLECs on their own, and in partnerships with Internet Service Providers (ISPs), are beginning to offer VoIP service -- along with data, networking and Internet services -- to their enterprise customers.

Unable or unwilling to simply ignore VoIP, the established telecommunications network providers are also planning for the convergence of their existing voice and data networks. These companies agree that Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) packet switching networks must be built now to support the telecommunications of the future.<sup>7</sup> AT&T is leading the way in building packet-switched networks. It recently announced that,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Gary Kim, CLECs ToeingOIPWaters,http://www.soundingboardmag.com/articles/951feat2.html.

by the end of 1999, it would have local ATM connectivity in 41 cities nationwide.<sup>8</sup> These packet-switched networks will allow the equivalent of local switch technology to be moved to the end user location, thereby eliminating the need for an ILEC switch. Other existing and new companies are following AT&T's lead: MCI WorldCom, Sprint, Qwest, Level 3, and IXC Communications are all building similar networks.<sup>9</sup>

To meet the demand, many large switch manufacturers are currently developing VoIP and ATM switching equipment. And several companies -- including Qwest, Level 3, ICG Netcom, and IXC Communications -- have already deployed VoIP networks.<sup>10</sup>

#### 4. Wireless Providers Are Providing Their Own Switching Functionality

CLECs that provide wireless telecommunications services are also opting to self-provision their own switching functionality to serve customers provisioned over wireless local loops. Table 4 below provides a synopsis of some of the fixed wireless companies that are placing their own switches rather than obtaining the functionality from ILECs or wholesale providers. These companies, who cater primarily to business customers, are providing local service by using 38 Ghz microwave technology to transport traffic from their end users to their switches. Even though Table 4 contains only a small sample of fixed wireless providers, it demonstrates that these CLECs have switching functionality in many of the major MSAs around the country.

<sup>8</sup>Infoworld, www.infoworld.com, March 29, 1999.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Network Computing Online, http://networkcomputing.com/shared/printArticle?article=nc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>*Id*.

TABLE 4: SELECTED WIRELESS CLECs PROVIDING THEIR OWN SWITCH FACILITIES		
CLEC	TECHNOLOGY/ VENDOR	MSA RANK OF SWITCH LOCATIONS ()=#switches
AT&T	Lucent 5ESS, Nortel DMS100	1 (11), 2 (3), 3 (6), 4 (6), 5 (2), 6 (5), 7(2), 8(2), 9 (2), 10, 11 (3), 12, 13 (2), 14,15 (2), 16 (2), 17, 18(2), 20(2), 21, 22, 23, 24 (2), 26, 28 (2), 29, 32, 35 (3), 37, 39, 45, 48, 51, 53, 61, 62, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 75, 79, 88, 93, 95, 137
McLeodUSA	Nortel DMS500	29, 109, 171 and one switch in Quincy, IL
NEXTLINK	Nortel DMS 500	1,2,3,6,9,8,12,13,14(2), 95,
Teligent	Nortel DMS	1 (2), 2, 3, 4 (2), 6 (2), 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 20, 26, 29, 32, 39, 50
WinStar	Lucent 5ESS AnyMedia	1 (2), 2, 3, 4 (3), 5, 6, 7 (2), 8, 9 (2), 11 (2), 12 (2), 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 26, 31
See Appendix A for table sources.		

# 5. There Are Advantages To CLECs Providing Their Own Switching

The proliferation of new switching technologies and the emergence of vendors catering to new market entrants make it possible for CLECs and other service providers to expand their networks efficiently without relying on ILECs for switching capabilities. Switch manufacturers are designing switches and integrated switching platforms to meet CLECs' specific telecommunications and market requirements. Today's available switching platforms offer flexible architectures, modular hardware and software options, and multiple access arrangements for a variety of facility media (copper, fiber, or radio) and bandwidth (voice frequency, DS1, ATM, Ethernet, etc.). These switches offer efficient and

scalable growth options for a wide range of line and trunk requirements. Thus, CLECs need only purchase the capacity and functionality they require now, because they can easily and economically grow and expand their product line in the future without service interruptions. This flexibility, coupled with the inter-network compatibility of the available switches, has enabled many CLECs to purchase rather than lease switching facilities. And all of this has led to the growth in the portion of the switch market that specifically caters to CLECs and other alternative network providers.

A description of some of the switching alternatives available today to CLECs and other providers is found below.

#### a) Traditional Switch Manufacturers

In the past, traditional switch manufacturers catered primarily to the needs of ILECs. There were generally separate development paths for voice, data, and video services. Integration of services frequently was time-consuming, complex, and costly. But this is no longer the case. Traditional switch manufacturers are now courting CLECs, IXCs, CAPs, CATV, and ISPs. They are emphasizing the ability of their product lines and platforms to provide a full range of functions with the rapid, cost-effective introduction of value-added services. They are also touting their switches' scalability and capability to integrate across voice, data, and video networks. Switch manufacturers in this category include Nortel (Northern Telecom), Lucent, and Siemens, to name a few.,

### Nortel DMS Systems

Nortel's DMS-500 is a single, multi-function switching platform for both local and long distance services. It has all the features necessary for competitors to participate fully in the telecommunications market. The DMS-500 is positioned for "emerging service providers" and incorporates both local and long distance capabilities. It can be configured with or without Operator Services functionality.<sup>11</sup>

In its DMS-500 Sponsor Profile at www.clec.com, Nortel states: "The DMS-500 switch uses a modular, scalable design that can meet a wide range of line and trunk size requirements and enables network providers to enter the local/long distance market by deploying an economically sized DMS-500 switch today and adding advanced capabilities later as service needs expand." 12

<sup>11</sup>clec.com, http://www.clec.com/latest/switch98/nortel.cfm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>*Id*.

- This scalable architecture is supported with a remote product line that ranges from the 6,400 line RSC-S, which can be located up to 650 miles from its host, to the 640-line OPAC, an outdoor unit that can be located up to 100 miles from its host. An additional CLEC alternative for many remote applications is the DMS Access Node, a Next Generation Digital Loop Carrier (NGDLC) device with access to switching functionality.
- Nortel's small version of the DMS-500 product is the Super Node Size Enhanced (SNSE) model, which accommodates up to 10,000 lines. It can be upgraded to a full DMS-500, with the front-end equipment easily redeployed in another location.
- The DMS-500 is also being offered to CATV companies entering the phone business, as well as to IXCs and CAPs getting into the local service business.<sup>13</sup>
  - This switching system offers a hybrid network configuration for fiber and coax that is targeted to cable providers. With the Cornerstone family of access products and applications, the system delivers narrowband and broadband services to homes and businesses. It accommodates both landline and wireless architectures.
  - The DMS platform can also integrate with Competitive Access Providers' metropolitan fiber-based rings. This allows CAPs to sell a mix of local and long distance services to any size or type of business. The switch has a variety of advanced business features, which can be offered to specific customer locations or packaged for specific industries such as health care.
  - With the DMS Access Node, a Next Generation Digital Loop Carrier (NGDLC) device, service providers can easily and costeffectively reach end users and connect them with their switches. Access Nodes can be placed at the customer's location or in collocation space. The Access Node interworks with any vendor's fiber multiplexer. Switch features are available to customers served via the Access Node, providing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>See U.S. Central Office Equipment Market, (1996); Northern Business Information (Jan.1997); DMS-500 CAP Product/Service Information, Nortel website, www.nortelnetworks.com.

additional economies of scale. On the low end, "Nortel's versatile Access Node Express is a cost-effective access solution for applications ranging from 24 to 200 lines." 14

Nortel also offers the DMS-10 (400 series) product to small service providers with minimum telecommunications requirements. It is a local digital switch that can handle 10,000 to 12,000 lines.

#### ■ Lucent 5ESS-2000® Family of Switches

Lucent is targeting this product at CAPs, CATV operators, and IXCs as these companies enter and expand their presence in the local telephone service business, as well as at carriers deploying PCS networks. Evidencing its success in supporting these new markets, Lucent has sold switches to TCG, a competitive access provider, PCS PrimeCo, a wireless service provider, and Time Warner Cable, a CATV operator.<sup>15</sup>

- Lucent's 5ESS AnyMedia Switch™ is marketed as a multi-service, software based switch. It is designed to match the changing requirements of telecommunications service providers. It uses separate modules rather than separate switches for specific service requirements.
- The product is targeted at the same audience as the Nortel system. The system is completely scalable. It can be introduced in modules, over time, to expand the product for a full mix of voice, data, and video.
- ► The 5ESS comes in a variety of sizes, all with full feature functionality.
  - The Very Compact Digital Exchange (VCXD) is the smallest switch configuration of the 5ESS-2000 product line. Lucent states in its product description: "For Service Providers targeting small communities, rural areas and private network locations, the 5ESS-2000 VCDX offers an elegant, cost-effective solution . . . [M]ost of the features available on the 5ESS-2000 are available on the VCDX . . . . [T]he VCDX can

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>Nortel Access Node Express Product Portfolio (May 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>U.S. Central Office Equipment Market (1996); Northern Business Information (Jan 1997).

evolve into various larger configurations utilizing almost all of its existing components." <sup>16</sup>

- Next in scale is the Compact Digital Exchange (CDX) which can serve up to 37,000 lines. "With the same features and AnyMedia functionality as the larger metropolitan switch, CDX offers you a cost effective method of delivering advanced digital services to customers in rural, suburban, campus, office parks, or other locations." 17
- ▶ Both the VCDX and CDX can be initially configured for requirements significantly less than their maximum capacities.
- Remote switching modules extend the service area of the 5ESS-2000 to up to 600 miles from the host. There are a number of remote sizing options that support a wide range of smaller demand applications. The CDX also supports remotes.
- Lucent's MultiService Module builds a bridge between traditional public switched networks and data networks. It supports Internet access, Internet Telephony services, and other data services. It can easily be integrated into prior purchases in the 5ESS product family.
- The 5ESS has a non-blocking line unit (Express Interface Unit) for data applications. It supports a variety of access methods including Fiber in the Loop, NGDLC, DSLAM, and xDSL.

#### ■ Siemens®

The EWSD is Siemens' switching platform for call processing applications. It offers all network applications in a single node via a generic platform, including local, toll, and international gateway functions. It also supports Personal Communication Services. The EWSD is scalable and flexible to meet the varying needs of service providers.

Siemens states in its product description, "EWSD offers a flexible and cost-efficient solution to meet all the requirements posed by different

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>5ESS-2000 Switch Product Description, Lucent Technologies Website, www. Lucent.com/netsys/5esswtch.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>*Id*.

network structures and sizes". 18

- The EWSD is supported with a line of remote switching products. These offerings include the Remote Control Unit (RCU) with capacities of 300 up to 4300 lines for small central office applications. The RCU can be located up to 600 miles from the host switch. The RCU can be upgraded to the SmartRemote™ discussed below.
- Siemens' planned SmartRemote™ will support up to 50,000 lines, but can be configured for as few as 1,500 lines. It offers full central office functionality with minimal investment in hardware. It can be used in any application where switching functionality is required. It can serve as a tandem or IXC switch as well. The SmartRemote™ is planned to have a capability of operating up to 3,000 miles from its host (server). This distance capability is based on the CLEC routing Long Distance traffic to an IXC rather than over the umbilical. This is a perfect application for CLECs whose serving market areas are geographically dispersed and have little or no community of interest.
- The EWSD switching platform is supported with interfaces to provide evolving voice and data services. EWSD PowerNode is a high-capacity platform for all network applications. This includes local, tandem, and toll. It supports evolution from narrowband to broadband services, and from predominantly voice services to mixed voice and data. It allows service providers to build on their existing EWSD investment in network infrastructure.
- The EWSD supports multiple access arrangements for network efficiency and economies.
- Siemens also sells the DCO Switching System as a low cost solution for CLECs. This product was originally aimed at RBOCs and Independent Operating Companies to meet service needs in smaller suburban and rural communities.
- In a press release for the March1998 Telecom Business '98 Convention and Exposition in Dallas, Texas, Siemens Telecom Networks states the following: "Siemens' DCO switch is ideal for serving suburban and rural areas, and it provides an efficient and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Siemens EWSD Product Description Literature, *A Platform for All Call Processing Applications*, Siemens Website, http://www.siemens.de/ic/networks.

economical solution for competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) seeking to enter switched, integrated services markets. Using Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) features, service providers can offer enhanced customized features such as debit card, international call back and personalized number services."<sup>19</sup>

In a similar press release for ALTS '98, Siemens reinforced these same points: "The DCO switch is an ideal system for CLECs entering new markets. Cost effective, competitively priced and fully featured, the DCO switch has one of the largest remote families that support line sizes ranging from 24 to 10,000 lines."<sup>20</sup>

All of the above flexibility, coupled with the inter-network compatibility of the switches being marketed, has enabled most, if not all, CLECs to purchase rather than lease switching facilities.

#### b) New-Breed Switch Manufacturers

There are also companies that are supplying a different type of switching technology to the growing number of telecommunications service providers, including new CLECs and IXCs, as well as wireless and PCS providers. The switches they offer are open and programmable, so that service providers can add functions as they are needed over time. Programmable switches can work with a service provider's current switches and proprietary software, or they can provide transport for new networks. They are often referred to as feature nodes, service nodes, or gateways.<sup>21</sup>

With programmable switches and open interfaces, service providers can roll out new and advanced services more quickly and cost-effectively than with traditional switches. Alliances and partnering arrangements across vendors permit easy integration of functions for voice, data, and video applications. Customers purchase the functions and services they need, and add to them as their markets develop. A description of the features and functions available to CLECs from some of these new-breed switch manufacturers is found below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>Siemens Telecom Network Demonstrates Competitive Solutions to Telecom Business '98 Siemens Press Release (March 10, 1998).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Siemens Press Release, *Siemens Demonstrates Network Solutions at ALTS '98* (Nov. 30,1998).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>These switches generally do not provide standard Class 5 switching functionality. Instead, they are used to supplement the capabilities of circuit switches.